

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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-----097784 140801Z /21/64

O R 101440Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1002
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ANKARA 1871

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SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF MONTREUX SUMMIT, MARCH 10

REF: ANKARA 1806

1. SUMMARY: PRE-SUMMIT ACTIVITIES RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE
IN TURKISH PRESS MARCH 10. STORIES ARE GENERALLY SHORT ON DETAILS
WITH FOCUS ON ECEVIT'S AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT

PRESS. SOME SKEPTICISM HAS CREPT INTO EDITORIAL COMMENTS. SEVERAL PAPERS HIGHLIGHT REPORTS OF ANTICIPATED POST-SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN ECEVIT AND WILLY BRANDT IN MONTREUX. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM ANKARA, IN ADDITION TO THE STATEMENT REPORTED REFTEL, PRIMIN ECEVIT ANSWERED REPORTERS' QUESTIONS. ASKED IF THE SUMMIT COULD LEAD TO THE LIFTING OF THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO, ECEVIT REPORTEDLY ANSWERED, "I ALWAYS KEEP OUR PROBLEMS WITH GREECE SEPARATE FROM THOSE WITH THE UNITED STATES. IF EVERYONE IN THE UNITED STATES HAD KEPT THESE TWO PROBLEMS APART, TURKEY AND GREECE WOULD HAVE BECOME TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES LONG AGO". ECEVIT, WHEN ASKED IF HE WOULD SEEK CARAMANLIS' ASSISTANCE FOR THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, RESPONDED THAT HE SAW NO LINK BETWEEN THE EMBARGO AND GREECE. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GREEK LOBBY IN THE U.S. HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST TURKEY IN THE CONGRESS. ASKED IF CARAMANLIS COULD NOT PUT AN END TO THESE ACTIVITIES, ECEVIT REPLIED, "I REPEAT. TURKEY AND GREECE SHOULD SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS BETWEEN THEMSELVES. WHEN GREECE HAS ATTEMPTED TO SOLVE HER PROBLEMS WITH TURKEY WITH THE HELP OF OTHER COUNTRIES, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF BOTH. I BELIEVE THAT PRIMIN CARAMANLIS HAS THE POLITICAL EXPERIENCE TO UNDERSTAND THIS."

3. REPORTS OF ECEVIT'S AUTO ACCIDENT ARE FEATURED IN MANY PRO-GOVERNMENT PAPERS. SEVERAL REPORTS HIGHLIGHT CARAMANLIS' UNCLASSIFIED

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NOTE OF CONCERN FOLLOWED BY A VISIT TO ECEVIT TO CONVEY HIS RELIEF THAT ECEVIT WAS SAFE. HURRIYET NOTED THAT THE LATE PRIMIN MENDERES ALSO SURVIVED AN ACCIDENT ENROUTE TO A MEETING WITH CARAMANLIS IN 1959. SOME REPORTS INDICATED THAT BLAME FOR ACCIDENT LAY WITH SWISS POLICE WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY LEADING THE MOTORCADE AT EXCESSIVE SPEED.

4. EDITORIALISTS CONTINUE TO EXPRESS HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT. A NUMBER OF THEM, HOWEVER, QUESTION GREEK SINCERITY AND THE CHANCES OF OVERCOMING YEARS OF ANIMOSITY. A SAMPLING OF EDITORIAL OPINION INCLUDES:

--METIN TOKER IN HURRIYET - EVEN SMALL STEPS, LIKE LIFTING VISA REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING THE AIRSPACE, WOULD BE GOOD SIGNS.

--CUNEYT ARCA YUREK IN HURRIYET - FATE HAS PLACED THE TWO NATIONS SIDE BY SIDE; THEY MUST LEARN TO LIVE TOGETHER.

--GUNAYDIN - DEEP-ROOTED ENMITY BASED ON YEARS OF PROPAGANDA SEPARATES GREECE AND TURKEY...TURKEY HAS OFFERED GOOD WILL; GREECE MUST RECIPROCATE.

--MILLKYET - THE HARMFUL ARMS RACE SHOULD BE STOPPED SO BOTH COUNTRIES CAN COMMIT THEIR RESOURCES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE SUMMIT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RAPPROACHMENT.

--ALI SIRMEN IN CUMHURİYET - THE SUMMIT IS A POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT FOR PRİMİN ECEVİT; HE HAS ERASED THE IMPRESSION THAT TURKEY IS THE INTRANSIGENT PARTY. THE ATTITUDE OF THE GREEK OPPOSITION IS NOT ENCOURAGING, BUT "ANKARA HAS CLEARLY SHOWN ITS PEACEFUL AND SINCERE WISH FOR RECONCILIATION... AND ALL WILL KNOW IT IS NOT ECEVİT'S FAULT IF THERE IS NO RESULT ACHIEVED AT MONTREUX."

5. MARCH 10 PRESS ALSO NOTES THAT WILLY BRANDT OF THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WILL VISIT MONTREUX TO TALK WITH PRİMİN ECEVİT, PROBABLY ON SUNDAY, MARCH 12, AFTER THE SUMMIT. REPORTS GENERALLY STRESS TIES ESTABLISHED BY ECEVİT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY WITH EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ECEVİT AND BRANDT.
SPIERS

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